

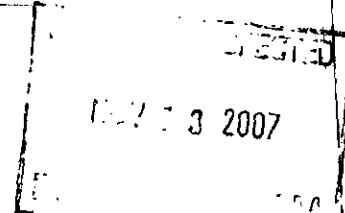
MB Docket 07-42



**ABEL HERRERO**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 34

P.O. Box 2910  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910  
(512) 463-0462  
(512) 463-1705 (FAX)  
(866) 861-0806 (TOLL FREE)



606 N. CARANCAHUA  
SUITE 103A  
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78476-2001  
(361) 882-2277  
(FAX) (361) 882-6706

November 8, 2007

Mr. Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
FCC Commissioners  
445 12th Street SW:  
Room: 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners:

After receiving numerous inquiries from my constituents, I respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission assist in resolving the current dispute between cable operators and the NFL Network. It is my understanding the Federal Communications Commission could take up this issue in the coming weeks. It may very well be that the only way this issue will be resolved for consumers and football fans is if an independent neutral arbitrator is appointed to bring the stakeholders together.

While I will not take sides in the dispute between the cable companies and the NFL Network, I must voice the concerns of constituents who have contacted me in an effort to address this issue.

Nothing rates as high as Dallas Cowboys games in Texas as far as television programming is concerned. Unfortunately, millions of football fans across Texas are about to be deeply disappointed when they are forced to miss eight key NFL games that will be broadcasted on the NFL Network. Unless there is a resolution between the cable companies and the NFL Network in the near future, fans across the state will either have to miss Cowboys games against the Green Bay Packers and Carolina Panthers and a late-season game between the Houston Texans and Denver Broncos, or they will have to make a switch to a different video provider if one is available.

For there to be true competitive access in cable programming, consumer demand must take precedence over corporate profits. I respectfully ask that you side with the fans and consumers on this issue and assign a neutral arbitrator to settle this dispute as soon as possible – and certainly before the first of such games are scheduled to be played at the end of this month.

E-MAIL: ABEL.HERRERO@HOUSE.STATE.TX.US

It is clear from the television ratings that an overwhelming number of viewers enjoy watching professional games. Unfortunately, the millions of consumers and fans affected by this dispute are currently being ignored. Please help put an end to this stalemate by bringing the parties together.

While I understand that primary jurisdiction on cable issues resides with the Federal Government, by copy of this letter, I am also appealing to our own Public Utility Commission to make every effort to protect the consumer as it transitions from local cable franchises to our recently enacted state-wide franchise system. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this important consumer choice issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Abel Herrero". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Abel Herrero

State Representative, District 34

MB Docket 07-42

November 5, 2007

Mr. Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW:  
Room: 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

NOV 13 2007

Re: NFL Network and Other Independent Programmers

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing today as both a sports fan and elected official who is concerned with the lack of willingness on the part of cable systems in Ohio to carry NFL Network and other programming options. Ohio's cable systems require me to purchase other sports networks -- such as Versus and the Golf Channel -- that I will likely never watch; yet they refuse to carry a network dedicated to the country's most popular sport. I am deeply troubled by cable companies' discrimination against NFL Network and against high-quality, non-sports independent channels in favor of less popular channels that cable companies own. I am not alone, as I have heard the same view from many of the constituents that I represent.

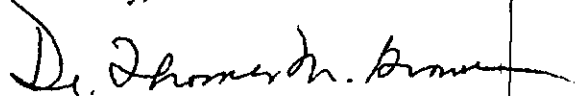
Today I am writing because the FCC has agreed to address this problem (MB Docket 07-42) and bring some clarity to the entire issue. I urge you to consider implementing rules that require an arbitrator to be appointed in order to settle disputes between cable operators and channel providers.

Recently, there has been a flurry of press stories detailing the discrimination that independent channels, such as NFL Network and Big Ten Network, have been facing from cable operators. Considering that sports are so popular here in Ohio, this issue is not going to get any smaller.

Once again, I ask that the FCC consider changing its rules to facilitate appointment of an arbitrator in disputes like the one involving NFL Network, so they can be resolved more quickly (preferably through negotiation between the parties) and with consumers' interests foremost in mind.

Thank you for reviewing these matters.

Sincerely,



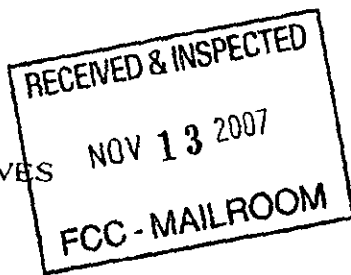
Thomas S. Brown  
Mayor of Port Clinton, Ohio  
1868 East Perry Street  
Port Clinton, Ohio 43452  
419-734-5522

Cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

MB Docket 07-42



JODIE LAUBENBERG  
TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



November 6, 2007

The Honorable Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Room: 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin,

After receiving numerous inquiries from my constituents, I respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission assist in resolving the current dispute between cable operators and the NFL Network. It is my understanding the Federal Communications Commission could take up this issue in the coming weeks. It appears as if the only way this issue will be resolved for consumers and football fans is if an independent neutral arbitrator is appointed to bring the stakeholders together.

While it is not my desire to take sides in the dispute between the cable companies and the NFL Network, it is my desire to side with the football fans and consumers of Texas who have demonstrated a strong affinity for not only professional football, but also college football.

Nothing rates as high as Dallas Cowboys games in Texas as far as television programming is concerned. Unfortunately, millions of football fans across Texas are about to be deeply disappointed when they are forced to miss eight key NFL games that will be broadcasted on the NFL Network. Unless there is a resolution between the cable companies and the NFL Network, in the near future, fans across the state will either have to miss Cowboys games against the Green Bay Packers and Carolina Panthers and a late-season game between the Houston Texans and Denver Broncos, or they will have to make a switch to a different video provider if one is available.

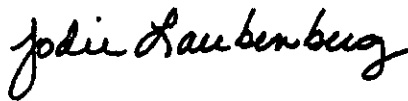
College fans will also miss the Insight and Texas Bowls which are also carried by the NFL Network. These two bowls have significant ties to the Big 12 Conference and Conference USA making it more than likely that one, or both, teams playing could hail from the Lonestar State. These games have provided Texas football fans with exciting outcomes in recent years. In fact, Texas Tech University staged the largest come from behind victory in college bowl history in last year's Insight Bowl.

Number of Copies 0  
List A B C D E

For there to be true competitive access in cable programming, consumer demand must take precedence over corporate profits. I respectfully ask that you side with the fans and consumers on this issue and assign a neutral arbitrator to settle this dispute as soon as possible – and certainly before the first of such games are scheduled to be played at the end of this month. It is clear from the television ratings that an overwhelming number of viewers enjoy watching professional games. Unfortunately, the millions of consumers and fans involved in this dispute are being held hostage while the corporate interests fight with one another. Please help put an end to this stalemate by bringing the parties together.

While I understand that primary jurisdiction on cable issues resides with the Federal Government, by copy of this letter, I am also appealing to our own Public Utility Commission to make every effort to protect the consumer as it transitions from local cable franchises to our recently enacted state-wide franchise system. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this important consumer choice issue.

Sincerely,



Jodie Laubenberg  
State Representative, District 89

cc: The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
The Honorable Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
The Honorable Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
The Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
The Honorable Paul Hudson  
Chairman, Public Utility Commission of Texas  
The Honorable Julie Caruthers-Parsley  
Commissioner, Public Utility Commission of Texas  
The Honorable Barry T. Smitherman  
Commissioner, Public Utility Commission of Texas

*MB Docket 07-42*

DIANNE W. HERNER  
208 E. GLENDALE AVENUE  
APPLETON WI 54911  
920.731.3632

Received & Inspected

NOV 13 2007

FCC Mail Room

October 30, 2007

Mr. Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Room: 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: NFL Network and Other Independent Programmers

Dear Chairman Martin:

My purpose in writing to you today is that I am quite concerned about the controversy involving the NFL Network and the Cable companies. We who live here and are Packer fans cannot get tickets to the game because there are none available. In my personal situation, my husband has suffered a stroke and would not be able to attend a game in stadium. He is still a staunch Packer fan, having grown up in Wisconsin, and is unhappy when he cannot get to watch "his" team play.

It brings back memories of the time that they would not put the game on TV locally if the game wasn't a sell out. That was always a threat, but thankfully the Packers always sold out.

I know there are many facets to this problem, and although I do not understand all of the issues involved, I am certain in my mind that you do. And since you have opened a rulemaking procedure (MB Docket 07-42) to consider program carriage issues, there is a perfect opportunity to solve this dilemma. Perhaps using an appointed arbitrator in reaching a negotiated solution would be another alternative.

Unless there is a timely resolution to the NFL Network dispute, fans in cities like Wausau, La Crosse, Eau Claire, Madison and Superior (over 40 percent of Wisconsinites) will not be able to watch the November 29<sup>th</sup> Packers-Cowboys game – a game that could turn out to be one of the most important of the season for the Packers.

Thank you for reviewing these matters.

Sincerely,

*Dianne Herner*

Outagamie County Board Supervisor

Copies to: Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein ✓

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell



November 5, 2007

Mr. Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW:  
Room: 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

NOV 13 2007

Re: NFL Network and Other Independent Programmers

Dear Chairman Martin:

We are writing today as members of the Football 24.7 Carolina steering committee. We are concerned that thousands of football fans are not able to watch NFL Network because cable systems to which they subscribe in both North and South Carolina are refusing to add it to their basic cable package. These cable systems require them to purchase other sports networks -- such as Versus and the Golf Channel -- that they never watch. We are concerned by cable companies' discrimination against NFL Network and against other high-quality non-sports independent channels in favor of less popular channels that the cable companies own.

We understand that the FCC has opened a rulemaking proceeding (MB Docket 07-42) to consider program carriage issues such as these -- particularly as they relate to independent and diverse channels.

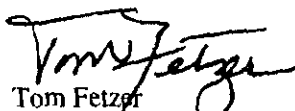
We hear more and more that -- just like NFL Network and other independent sports channels -- non-sports independent channels face discrimination from big cable companies that own many of the channels they carry. Some independent channels like the Oxygen Network are choosing to sell themselves to large media holding companies rather than to try to continue as stand-alone businesses. It is not a good trend since this increasing concentration will reduce media diversity and consumer choice.

We also note that in connection with another high-profile sports channel carriage dispute -- the one between Comcast and the Mid-Atlantic Sports Network (MASN) in the Washington, DC area in 2005 -- the FCC's decision to appoint an arbitrator to settle the dispute caused the parties to reach a negotiated solution. We urge the FCC to consider changing its rules to facilitate appointment of an arbitrator in disputes like the one involving the NFL Network, so they can be resolved more quickly (preferably through negotiation between the parties) and with consumers' interests foremost in mind. If such a mechanism were in place, it might help persuade the cable companies to negotiate a carriage deal with NFL Network before Carolina football fans are deprived of the NFL Network game telecasts that begin this season on Thanksgiving night.

P.O. Box 28112 Raleigh, NC 27611

We are signing this letter on behalf of each of the Members of the Football247carolina steering committee that join us in our support of a change in the FCC rules to facilitate appointment of an arbitrator in these types of disputes.

Thank you for reviewing these matters.



Tom Fetzer  
Former Raleigh Mayor  
Fetzer-Stephens Consulting  
Raleigh, NC



Nick Theodore  
Former S.C. Lt. Governor  
Former member SC Public Service Commission  
Greenville, SC

Philip Bradley  
Former Member  
SC House of Representatives  
Former SC Public Service Commissioner  
Greenville, SC

Steve Griffin  
President  
Insurance People of NC  
Durham, NC

Roddy Broadnax  
Sports Marketer  
Thunder Road Brandworks  
Charlotte, NC

Tony Gurley  
Attorney; Pharmacist  
Gurley & Cookson, PLLC  
Raleigh, NC

Tim Chappell  
Chappell Consulting Group  
Former Chair, Charlotte Manufacturers Alliance  
Charlotte, NC

George Little  
Past President National Community Colleges  
Association  
George Little & Associates  
Southern Pines, NC

Bill Cobey  
Former Member of Congress  
Former Athletic Director UNC-Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill, NC

Gene McLaurin  
Mayor of Rockingham  
Rockingham, NC

Paul Coble  
Wake County Commissioner  
Former Raleigh Mayor  
Coble, Nicholson & Assoc.  
Raleigh, NC

Chris Mintz  
Businessman/Entrepreneur  
Raleigh, NC

Andy Dedmon  
Former Member NC House of Representatives  
Dedmon Properties  
Shelby, NC

Dr. Claude Moorman III  
Director, Sports Medicine  
Duke University Medical Center  
Head Team Physican  
Baltimore Ravens 1996-2001  
Durham, NC

Zeno Edwards  
Former Member NC House of Representatives  
Washington, NC

Stewart Mungo  
Mungo Homes  
Irmo, SC



Jonathan Pinson  
Businessman & Developer  
Greenville, SC

Eric Reeves  
Former NC State Senator  
Former Member Raleigh City Council  
Raleigh, NC

Bill Saunders  
Former Chair SC Public Service Commission  
Former Chair SC Broadcasters Assoc.  
Charleston, SC

Allen Thomas  
Co-hosts pre-game and post game shows  
East Carolina Pirates radio network  
Thomas Partners  
Greenville, NC

Cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Richard Vinroot  
Former Charlotte Mayor  
Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson  
Charlotte, NC

Michael Weeks  
Chair, RDU Airport Authority  
Former Chair, Wake County Commission  
Weeks Turner Architecture  
Raleigh, NC

Bill Wiseman  
Southern Management Group  
Columbia, SC